WASHINGTON

LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND POREVER OF 8 ...

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1863.

THE DEFEAT OF GEN. LEE.

We need not direct the attention of our reader to the continuation of the narrative we to-day give respecting the recent terrible battles in the State of Pennsylvania. The military operations in this State have for the last few days held the whole country in breathless suspense, because of the magnitude of the issues depending on the uncertain arbitrament of the bloody wager to which they were submitted in the eves of the nation. It was generally felt that the complexion of the future would be largely determined by the result of the battles that must ensue from the daring invasion of Gen. Lee, and the recognised skill of that efficer conspired, with other considerations which we need not enumerate, to create the liveliest solicitude in

The war-cloud that lowered so portentously over the land has now spent its fury, and, after a struggle of unprecedented ferocity, the army of Gen. Lee, with diminished ranks and shattered columns, is endeavoring to effect its retreat into Virginia. The valor of the brave Army of the Potomac, so often proved before on many an ensanguined field, has been again most signally illustrated, and crowned with a success which sheds a lustre equally on it and on the new leader, who was called under circumstances of such intermingled opportunity and difficulty to give the first evi dences of his skill and energy as the commander of

ed. Nor is it possible in a war like this-bellum plusquam civile-to forget, in the sight of every stricken battle-field, that victor and vanquished. with all who fall or suffer in the ranks of one or the other, are brethren, made rather to respect and love one another than to delight in the unnatural strife which has placed in their hands the weapons of mutual destruction. Let us hope that the bloody drama whose swelling scenes are now passing before the eyes of the nation may soon approach its dénouement.

THE CONWAY CORRESPONDENCE.

We published, a few days ago, the correspon

"If the States calling themselves 'the Confederate States of America' will consent to emancipate the negro slaves in those States, such emancipation to be guarantied by a liberal European commission, the emancipation to be inaugurated at once, and such time to be allowed for its completion as the commission shall adjudge to be necessary and just, and such emancipation once made to be irrevocable—then the abolitionists and anti-slavery leaders (the Northern States shall immediately convers the present cution of the war on the part of the United States Gov-ernment, and, since they hold the balance of power, will certainly cause the war to cease by the immediate with-drawal of every kind of support from it."

We know nothing of the suspices under which Mr. Conway has made his appearance in London. That he had no credentials by which to authenticate his representative character, or to certify the nature of his mission, was sufficiently proved by the fact that, when interrogated on these points by Mr. Mason, he had no other reply to make than the following:

"I could easily give you the evidence that I represent the views of the leading Abolitionists of America, but with regard to the special offer which I have made I have concluded that it was best to write out to America and obtain the evidence of my right to make it in a form which will preclude any doubt as to its sufficiency."

Those who know Mr. Conway (and he is well known in this city, from his former residence among us) will readily perceive the source of the error into which he has fallen. Giving to his antislavery ideas a preponderance which disqualifies cious determinations in matters concerning the supposed welfare of the slave, he avows his readiness to sacrifice all other political interests and principles affecting the welfare and integrity of the United States provided emancipation can be atconsideration. Similar views, the offspring of the Hampton Roads. same inspirations, have been announced by Mr. to find many among his friends who are ready to endorse his proposition.

It is not to be presumed that this proposition was made by him with any criminal intent, however injudicious it may have been, and however obviously it falls under the pains and penalties denonneed by a statute of the last Congress, framed and introduced by Mr. Senator Sumner. It is known that the Fifth Congress of the United States, by an act passed on the 30th of January, 1799, prohibited all correspondence and intercourse, ver-bal or in writing, direct or indirect, by any citizen, at home or abroad, with any officer or agent of or any person sympathizing with a "foreign Government," with a view to change, modify, or thwart the measures of the United States. As this act in terms related only to a "foreign Government," it was doubtful whether it could be made to apply to the case of a citizen corresponding or communi esting with the insurgent authorities at Richmond or their representatives abroad, and in order to discourage all such volunteer and irregular diploacy, the last Congress passed an act applying the bitions and penalties of the old law to those who should hold intercourse with "the present pretended rebel government," or any of its of agents, or sympathizers, "with intent to defeat the

measures of the United States Government, or to

of the last Congress infringed by Mr. Conway is as follows :

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY POWERER

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the United States of America in Congress arsembled, That if any person, being a resident of the United States, or being a citizen thereof, and residing in any foreign country, shall, without the permission or authority of the Government of the United States, and with the intent to defeat the measures of the said Government, or to weaken in any way their efficacy, hold or commence, directly or indirectly, any correspondence or intercourse, written or verbal, with the present pretended rebel Government, or with any officer or agent thereof, or with any other indiviwith any officer or agent thereof, or with any other indivi-dual acting or sympathizing therewith; or if any such per-son above mentioned, not duly authorized, shall counsel or assist in any such correspondence or intercourse, with intent as aforesaid, he shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and on conviction before any court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof, shall be pun-ished by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars, and by nment not less than six months nor exceeding five

is committed in any foreign country, the district court of the United States for the district where the offender shall be first arrested shall have jurisdiction thereof.

The "conversations" had with Lord Lyons in New York by some of the "conservative laders," as reported by him to Earl Russell, after the last Ocevidence of disloyal designs sufficient to impeach the patriotism of a large mass of their countrymen. were then so swift to level their denunciations at and jealous and suspicious in questioning the loyalty of the parties for whom Mr. Conway assumes to speak in offering to postpone the cause of the Union to the cause of emancipation.

The New York Commercial Advertiser, an Administration journal, comments on "the Conway correspondence" in the following terms:

"No sconer is this correspondence made public here No sconer is this correspondence made public here than the Abolitionists seek to repudiate it. The Tribune denounces Mr. Conway; and Mr. Garrison, whose name has been mentioned in connexion with the affair, says that the Abolitionists with whom he is identified have not been The saddest thing in war is a great defeat, and the next saddest thing is a great victory, for the voice of weeping, lamentation, and woe over those lost to country and friends mingles alike with the shouts of the victors and the cries of the vanquishdisunion, provided only the peculiar institution may be abolished. This opinion is held by few, very few indeed. but as many are suspected of faith in this fatal and treasonable heresy, it is perhaps well that an opportunity s given them to disclaim all connexion with these plotters f disunion. These are times when it is important to know precisely where we stand. Copperheads may lurk as well under the shadow of the Tabernacle as within the

retreats of Mozart Hall.

"The folly of the proposition made by this self-sufficient envoy is evident from the fact that he promises to "cause the war to cease by the immediate withdrawal of every kind of support from it." One kind of support, that of actual presence in the field, Mr. Conway and his friends have never very abundantly yielded to the war, and as to "material aid," that is already provided for another year, Congress having made the necessary appropriations. Mr. Conway's 'peace' party is hardly strong enough in the next Congress to give them much hope of a repeal of the legislation on this subject.

islation on this subject.

There has been far too much of this self-constituted dence which has recently been had in London between the Rev. Moncure D. Conway, who represents himself as an agent of "the leading Abolitionists of America," and the Hon. James M. Mason, the Commissioner of the Confederate States. In his opening letter, Mr. Conway, it will be remembered, made the following proposition:

"There has been far too much of this self-constituted diplomacy in this war, and it is time a stop was put to it by the strong hand of the law. Many were clamorous last winter for the punishment of those who had made peace propositions to the Richmond powers, and no language was too severe to be applied to them. The public was, that no case was made out. Propositions and plans of settlement faded into thin air as soon as an attempt was made to define them. Least of all was any one willing to stand sponsor for them. But here is a proposition and an author, and the two together make up a case for a grand jury."

A PROPOSED CONFEDERATE MISSION.

Some notice of the incident related below having found its way into the New York papers, we have enabled ourselves to communicate to our readers a correct and authoritative statement of the aftimation of the transaction, but did not think proper to make any allusion to it until more accurately informed and feeling authorized to make it public.

and naval forces of the Confederate States of Ame- the bond of union, and we must be re-educated in of the land and naval forces of the United States its sanctions. So Ezra read afresh to the Jewish of America," and that he desired to proceed in the people, after the return from captivity, the same Confederate steamer to Washington to deliver him for the formation of well-balanced and judi- the said communication, attended only by Robert fulness among them while they dwelt in the strange Ould, as secretary, for the purpose of conferring land into which they had been led only because of upon the subjects of the aforesaid communication, and the officers and crew of the steamer. The Secretary of the Navy on the same day received a similar despatch from Acting Rear Admiral Lee, tained. This latter is with him the paramount in command of the United States Squadron in

On Monday the Secretary of War and the Secre-Martin F. Conway, a member of the last House of Ludlow and Rear Admiral Lee, that "The re-Representatives from the State of Kansas. How quest of Alexander H. Stephens is inadmissible. widely the same sentiment prevails among this The customary agents and channels are adequate class of politicians we are unable to say, but are for all needful military communication and conferinclined to doubt whether Mr. Conway will be able ence between the United States forces and the insurgents."

> IMPORTANT ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS. The annual visitation of the English Royal Observatory was made on the 6th of June. Professor AIRY, in his report of his proceedings, says that he has commenced a series of observations on star spectra—a brauch of physical inquiry which of late has attracted great general interest and which may yet lead to most important results. He says, also, that from observations of the planet Mars, compared with other observations made in Australia, a value of the solar parallax has been obtained "exceeding the received value by about 1-24th part." This shows the earth to be nearer the sun by several millions of miles than has seen supposed, and independent investigations made o late by other astronomers have led to the same result. It mentioned in the report that a new determination has been made, taking into account a very large number of stars, (above one thousand,) the result of which inves tigation supports the deductions already obtained by other

FORTRESS MONROE, JULY 7 .- Advices from White House say that on the lat Gen. Getty, with 10,000 men. proceeded from that point for the purpose of destroying the maining bridges over the South Anna. Passing through William C. H., Brandywine, and Fayetteville, be But he ture up the railroad track for five or six miles, and detroved a depot, capturing a few prisoners. There was

OUR SECOND EDUCATION

Nothing is more certain than that the outbreak of the present war found the people of the United States less imbued with the principles and even less familiar with the provisions of the Constitution than were their predecessors at any former period in the history of the country.

The generation contemporaneous with the formation of the Constitution, partaking as they did in the discussions which every where preceded and attended its adoption, were not only profoundly impressed with the value but also deeply indoctrinated in the principles of that great instrument, which it had taxed the highest wisdom of our fathers to frame.

After the Constitution had been ratified by the States and the National Government had been reared on its present basis, a great part of the political activity of the country was spent for many years in the discussion of purely constitutional questions which were raised by the practical opetober elections, gave, it is known, great umbrage to rations of the Government under its new charter. some of our citizens, who supposed themselves to The nature, scope, application, and limitations of see in the fact and matter of such conversations the the powers granted by the Constitution furnished for a long period the chief subjects of partisan division and debate, until at last "construc-It remains to be seen whether the persons who tion construed" had nearly spent its force, and the instrument, in all its essential features, graduassumed political offenders, will be equally prompt slly took on a definite "form and pressure," resulting from established precedents in the administration of affairs.

To this age of constitutional interpretation suc cecded the period of administrative measures, based mainly on considerations of political economy, and expressing the different views which obtained among different denominations of men with regard to certain leading questions of public expediency. Constitutional questions continued, it is true, to be warmly discussed in connexion with these measures, but it was evident that men differed more from the force of a conceived divergency of interests than from a simple diversity of opinion as to the true meaning of the Constitu-

This supposed divergency of interests led to the formation of parties, organized for the assertion no longer of mere theoretical principles but of material wants, implicating first the cupidity and then the passions of their respective adherents. All that was selfish in human nature gradually conspired contests a ferocity which rendered men as insensipursued as a trade, and when the retainers of stincts and prejudices of their respective follow- limited political fellowship. ers-until in the end this civium ardor prava

Amid such excited disputants the Constitution tion of the country. The people, thus led into politi- see it in the old days of American patriotism and cal captivity, forgot the language and the laws of pro the fathers. They spoke in a strange speech of On Sunday, the 5th instant, the Secretary of present troubles and distresses.

War received a despatch from Col. Ludlow, the But the very extremity of the evils under which United States Commissioner for exchange of pri- we now suffer is causing men every where to ponsoners of war, attached to the staff of Major Gen. der the paths they have been treading, and day by Dix. commander of the Department of Virginia, to day it grows only more and more clear that our the effect that "Alexander H. Stephens, Military only safety is to be found in returning to the tra-Commissioner for the Confederate States," had pre- ditions from which we have, as a nation, apostasented himself in a "Confederate" steamer under tized. We must return to the first principles of a flag of truce, and stated to Col. Ludlow that he the Government-to a respect for law and order as was the bearer of a communication in writing from the basis of respect for each other's rights and im-Jefferson Davis, commander-in-chief of the land munities. The law is the bond of peace as it is rica," to "Abraham Lincoln, commander in-chief the precepts of law and restored to acquiescence in "words of the law," which had fallen into forgettheir unfaithfulness to the teachings of their Divine Legislator.

We are to-day learners in a hard school, but the whole nation will profit in the sequel by the lessons it is receiving in the fires of adversity, and as it becomes more and more imbued with that wisdom whose ways are ways of pleasantness and whose Wendell Phillips, of Boston, and by the Hon. tary of the Navy respectively answered Colonel paths are paths of peace, it will more and more return to the spirit and temper of the fathers from whose example it has so widely departed.

We have been reminded of this encouraging prospect-a bright outlook from the darkness that now envelopes the land-by the following reflections of Governor Seymour, of New York, as contained in a speech delivered by him on the Fourth of July. He said :

"I am one of those who are full of hope for the future lot that I underrate the dangers which threaten us. Not that I underrate the dangers which threaten us; not that I do not deplore as much as any living man can the that I do not deplore as much as any living man can the terrible ravages of this war. But why does war rage in our land? It was because the people of this generation have lost the virtues and patriotism and wisdom of their fathers. It was because we had become indifferent to those great truths which we have now laid before us, as if they were curiouties in legal literature, instead of being great truths that should be impressed upon the heart and mind of every American. I tell you why I am full of hope that not only will our liberties be maintained, our nation restored, and order once again prevail over this great land of ours. It is this: Examine yourselves, and I ask you how many men there are within the over this great land of ours. It is this: Examine yourselves, and I ask you how many men there are within the
sound of my voice who knew twelve months ago what the
Constitution of their country was. I do not say that you did
not understand it intellectually; I do not mean to say that it
was not imprinted upon your memory; I do not mean to say
that it had not received your assent; but it was not until
we were made to feel, as our fathers felt, the value of this
Declaration they had put forth, that any of us could ever
see the full value and significance of the Constitution of
our country and the Declaration of Independence. We
have accepted it, as I said, mentally and intellectually, before; but wby was it, when these familiar words sounded
again in your ears on this occasion, as you have heard them
often before on the anniversary of our country's liberty,

My friends, we have not now a mere in "My friends, we have not now a mere intellectual knowledge of the Constitution—we do not give it now a mere mental support. We have now upon that subject a vital, living piety that makes us better men and better patriots; and wherever you go all over this land you find that these sentiments now exist in the minds of more than a majority of the American people. They are now fervent in their faith, fixed in their purpose—a party—if you

please fanatics, for the great principles of liberty and fanatical in their determination to see that those rights and liberties are established. We have seen in our land small parties, each an inconsiderable minority in the section of country where they existed, but men of parpose, men of zeal, men of fanaticism. We have seen them wage a war upon the Constitution of your country with a persistence and power that have, at last, shaken it to its very foundation, and brought us to-day to the very brink of national ruin. We have seen what zeal and purpose could do when it was opposed only by a dull mental acquiescence in great truths. What may we not hope that we may not do when the great majority of the American people have a fervent longing and vital faith in these principles which you have heard and read, and who propose to maintain them at every cost and at every hazard?

"Do you wish for peace? Do you wish for victory?

"Do you wish for peace? Do you wish for victory Do you wish for the restoration of our national privileges. Here lies the pathway, and let the American people once learn the full value of their liberties, as our fathers did and the bettle it fouch." and the battle is fought and won. Without this, refriends, war can bring you no success—peace can give you or quiet until the American people are thus educated a clevated, and I believe they are rapidly becoming educated and elevated. Until that takes place war or peace is to mere incident of the great underlying causes of convulsi which have affected our land and shaken our institution their very centre. Remember this that the great to their very centre. Remember this, that the great un derlying cause of this war, I care not what particular ap on you may give to it, what your particular views it lead you to attribute it to, one special cause or another special cause; but there is one great underlying general cause, which must be removed before it can be restored, and that cause was indifference to our rights, indifference to our liberties, and want of proper intelligence with regard to our own country, and want of an elevated wisdom that could understand the duties of American citizenship. that could understand the duties of American citizenship When you have gained this, pesses will be restored; when you have gained this, all the world can see that we have gone back to the wisdom of our fathers, and that we are again sustaining institutions that invited the whole world to their shelter and protection—institutions that made us, but three short years ago, the most glorious nation on the face of the earth. When we have again restored that virtue and that intelligence, our country will again be restored to its former greatness and to its former glory. But, my friends, any thing short of this will disappoint your hopes. No victory can restore greatness and glory and power to a people who are unworthy of liberty. No peace will bring back prosperity to a land which cannot understand the great principles upon which governments should be founded, and the great objects for which governments are instituted.

Let us resolve, upon this sacred day, that we will "Let us resolve, upon this sacred day, that we will hereafter stand by the Constitution of the country, the power of the Government, and the rights of the States, the privilege of the citizen, and the independence and the purity of the Judiciary. Whatever others may do, let us show ourselves obedient and respectful to the authorities acting within the limits of their constitutional jurisdictions, and at the same time show ourselves resolute in the maintenance of our own rights. Let us do our duty and demand our rights. Let us do our duty cheerfully, promptly, and faithfully. Let us demand our rights resolutely and firmly, in all their fullness. He who fails to do his duty is untrue to his country. He who fails to demand duty is untrue to his country. He who fails to demand his rights is false to the principles of liberty and of free-

"REUNION BY EXPANSION."

Mr. Elihu Burritt, popularly known as "the Learned Blacksmith," and who it seems is now sojourning in London, has recently propounded with all that was vindictive to give to our political from that city a plan for the termination of the present war and for a "re-annexation" of the ble to the teachings of the Constitution as they Seceded States to the American Union, no longer, were deaf to the voice of reason. This was the pe- however, as integral members of that Union, after riod of organized politics when politics were the manner of the Loyal States, but as a distinct political community, to be joined with Canada and party could be led captive at the will of dema- Mexico in forming around the Federal Government gogues, every where appealing to the grosser in- a "Nation's Union," embracing them all in a

It would be difficult to conceive of a scheme jubentium degenerated into a sectional wrangle more ideal or impracticable than this, and yet it whose din and discord drowned every other is gravely promulgated by its author as affording a "solution" of the American problem. He invites for it the "thoughtful attention" of Amerihad but little chance to be heard on the one side can readers, and expresses the conviction that or the other, and men showed only too significant- many of them may be prepared, by the experiences ly that they heeded but little its injunctions. There of the last two years, and by the aspects of that was a noise of political riot in the land long before the future that seems to threaten us, to give more sesounds of cannon brought the nation to its feet in rious consideration to this plan "of restoring peace a struggle with armed sedition, which latter was the and of reconstructing the Union, not only as it was, culmination of a growing disregard for the Constitu- but such as multitudes of all sections aspired to

hatred and passion, and they trampled on the rights amiable delusion under which Mr. Burritt labors guarantied by the ancestral covenants. This alien- in proposing such an impossible plan, we cite its ation has finally brought us into the depths of our leading features, as sketched by him, in the following terms :

"The solution of this tremendous crisis, which I would deferentially propose, is this: That we concede to the Confederate States the same footing on which we would readily admit into union with us the Mexican Republic and the British provinces; that we concede to them their own Congress, and all those prerogatives of group legislation which might be exercised without impairing the united action and attitude of the United Nations of America towards foreign Powers. This relationship the Confederate States would doubtless readily and gladly accept. They would be worth as much to us in that relationship as in the one that average to the control of cept. They would be worth as much to us in that relationship as in the one that existed between us immediately sefore their rebellion. It will be only twisting the dozen separate cords which once connected their several States with us into one national hawser, retaining all their strength. It will be a nominal instalment of that independence for which they have made anch prodigious efforts and sacrifices. It will save them from that utter and unmitigated humiliation which their pride will impel them to resist to the last bitter end of complete exhaustion. It will be reconstructing the Union on a basis of mutual volition and interest, instead of holding it together with the grappling-irons of military force.

grappling-irons of military force.

"Suppose the Confederate States should succumb and give up the struggle on the first of June, and come back into the Union they have endeavored to destroy, and be readmitted precisely on their old footing, under the Constitution as it is, and as it was in the beginning. Is there any thing in the Constitution to prevent those States from meeting yearly in a Congress of their own, at Richmond or Montgomery, provided their legislation did not infringe upon the prerogatives of the National Government at Washington? For instance, as a Confederacy, they have contracted large and heavy debts at home and abroad to carry on the war against the North. When the war is over, can we force them, by an act of Congress, to repudiate the debts due their own citizens or foreign bondholders? If not, can we, under "the Constitution as it is," prevent their annual meeting in a Confederate Congress to devise ways and means for liquidating these debts, provided always that they do not trench upon the customs revenue and other financial preserves of the National Government? Have we any right or power to prevent or dissolve any sectional confederation of States, organized to promote the particular interests of North, South, or West, provided the action of such a confederation did not encroach upon the prerogatives of the National Government? "Then, if after all the blood and treasure which will still be required to reduce the Confederate States, we should be willing that they should retain an innocuous form of confederation when the war is over, why not concede to them at once the limited nationality which they would gladly accept, and which would form the basis and beginning of the United Nations of America—a Union that should ultimately embrace the whole continent, and constitute a Power in the world which should realize the legitimate aspirations of patriotism and philanthrophy?"

The defect in Mr. Burritt's "plan" is that grapping-irons of military force.
"Suppose the Confederate States should succumb

The defect in Mr. Burritt's "plan" is that neither Canada, the United States, the so-called Confederate States, nor Mexico, are likely to accept it, or ever to hear of it as other than the vision of a dreamer. If it could be tried, the experiment would prove only that "reunion by expansion" was a scheme for multiplying the points of contact between alienated and heterogeneous nationalities. It is lawful to construct such polities in the Nephelococcygia of the Grecian dramatist, but the real every-day world of men in the flesh has no room for them.

GENERAL SICKLES. Mejor General SICKLES, who was severely wounded in

he battle of Thursday last at Gettysburg, (his right leg having since been amputated above the knee,) reached this city yesterday morning, accompanied from the battle-field by Major Tremaine, Capts. Moore and Fry, Dr. Simms, and Mr. Wm. B. Cutter. He was conveyed to a private residence on F street on a litter, surrounded by a large guard of honor with arms and accourrements complete. We learn that his condition is quite favorable for his early

SURRENDER OF VICKSBURG.

From the subjoined brief despatch of Acting Admiral Porter the reader will learn that the town of Vicksburg, so long closely besieged by the Union forces and so long successfully defended by its garrison, has at last surrendered. This event was not unexpected, but its magnitude is none the less clear to all, the importance of the position being sufficiently attested by the vigorous and unintermitting efforts put forth for its capture, and by the stubborn and heroic resistance which has delayed this consummation for so many months. We are as yet unapprized of all the circumstances under which the surrender was made, or of the material results which, besides the important position secured are involved in the transaction. The political and military relations of that position, considered with special reference to the opening of the Mississippi river, are too familiar and apparent to need enforcement at present. Relieved from the operations so long directed to the capture of this place, Gen. Grant, it is presumed, will speedily combine with Gen. Banks to effect the reduction of Port Hudson, and thus complete the work of opening the Mississippi to the navigation and possession of the National Government from its source

UNITED STATES MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON, Flag Ship Black Hawk, Vicksbury, July 4, 1863. To Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy. SIR: I have the honor to inform you that Vicksburg surrendered to the United States forces on this Fourth of

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. D. PORTER, Acting Rear Admiral.

UNOFFICIAL DESPATCH. CAIRO, JULY 7 .- The despatch boat has just arrive rom Vicksburg. She left at ten o'clock on Sunday

lag of truce on the morning of the 4th of July, and offered to surrender if his men were allowed to march out. Gen. Grant is reported to have replied that no men should leave excepting as prisoners of war. Gen. Pemberton then, after consultation with his commanders, uncondition ally surrendered. This news is considered perfectly re-

ANOTHER VICTORY.

REBEL ATTACK AND REPULSE AT HELENA

CAIRO, JULY 7 .- Between eight and ten thousand rebels nder Holmes, Price, and Marmaduke, made an attack on Helena on the meraing of the 4th. They advanced in three columns, but the roughness of the ground was such as to prevent the rebels from bringing up their artillery, and they attempted to carry the works by assault. The centre column charged in the direction of Fort Curtis and took three lines of rifle-pits. The flank attack was not so suc cessful, which subjected the centre to an enfilading fire, which swept them down in great numbers. They were soon surrounded, and one whole brigade, or what was left of it, numbering 840, fell in our hands, 740 of whom arrived here this morning, among them Col. Lewis, of the Seventh Missouri, Col. Johnson, and Col. Bell. Gen. Prentiss was aware of the contemplated attack, and was prepared. He had about 4,000 men, and was assisted by the gunboat Tyler. Prisoners say the attack will be renewed The battle commenced at 4 A. M. and continued till 10 A. M. The rebel loss is fifteen hundred in killed, wounded and prisoners. The entire Federal loss was not over one hundred. Gen. Prentiss is confident that he can renel any assault made. It is thought the rebel depredations near Lake Providence were to draw the gunboats to that point thus to give them a better opportunity at Helena.

OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS, Memphis, (Tenn.) Ju y 5, 1863 - Noon

Holmes and Price on yesterday. He estimates their force at fifteen thousand. I think nine thousand will cover their strength. Prentiss sustained their attack until 3 P. M. from daylight, when the rebels were repulsed at all points, leaving twelve hundred prisoners. Their loss in killed and wounded is about from five to six hundred. Prentiss lost about sixty. He has already sent me eight hundred and sixty prisoners, which I send to Alton to-day on the "Sil-S. A. HURLBURT, Major General Commanding

FROM EUROPE.

Advices from Europe, two days later, reach us by the teamship Asia, which arrived at Halifax on Tuesday, having and two wounded, as the result of several thousand shells left Liverpool on the 27th and Queenstown on the 28th ultimo. In the House of Lords, on the 26th, Earl Russell denied that Louis Napoleon had renewed his overtures for joint mediation between the North and South. Mr. Roebuck announced in the House of Commons that he should bring on his motion for the recognition of the South on the 30th. The London press was taking ground in favor of interven tion. The custom-house authorities at Liverpool had notified the agents of the steamer Gibraltar (formerly the Sumter) that the guns of large calibre on board must be landed, or the ship would be detained on suspicion that they were intended for the "Confederates." The news of Gen. Lee's advance into the Loyal States had been received in England by the Persia, and the impression prevailed that he had made a mistake. The Polish question

The Judiciary of New Hampshire have given an opinion declaring that the soldiers' voting proposition, passed by the late Legislature of that State, is opposed to the spirit and letter of the Constitution, as well as the common law, which requires the presence of the voter at the polls. Several practical objections to the bill are also mentioned in the opinion. The opinion is signed by Chief Justice Bell, and Associate Justices Bellows, Nesmith, and Bart-

A GREAT EXPLOIT-MILROY'S WAGON TRAIN. From the Baltimore American of Last Evening.

Capt. E. P. Fitch, depot quartermaster at Martinsburg Virginia, arrived in this city to-day about one o'clock, with his train of horses, wagons, and Government stores, amounting to over one and a half millions. It will be recollected that it was said that much of this property had been destroyed and captured by the rebels on Gen. Miloy's retreat from Martinsburg last Sunday week.

Capt. Fitch, with his able and efficient superinter transportation, Courtland Ross, and George B. Dorsey, forage-master, in this ever to be remembered retreat, have gained a reputation for perseverance and daring that can hardly be too highly appreciated by the Government and people. It will be superfluous to give at this time the full details of every thing connected with this unparalleled safe retreat, as nothing Capt. Fitch started with was cap tured by the rebels, and he, with his aids above-named, were the last to leave Martiusburg, as the rebels had enmaster, set fire to the forage building while the rebe were firing and shelling the town, and Ross had just got into the wagon the iron safe that contained all the most able papers and a very large amount of Government is. With the property saved were forty cars loaded a quartermaster's stores, which safely arrived in this ity a few days since by the Baitimore and Ohio railroad Papt. F. has now with him a large amount of property wagons, horses, and men. He got safely into Harrisburg Pennsylvania, with 1,152 horses, 35 mules, 7 ambulances 300 wagons, and harness for ten ambulances, and 325 sets

FROM PORT HUDSON

The steamship Cahawba, whose arrival at Fortress Monroe from New Orleans, was announced a day or two ago, has reached New York, bringing New Orleans journals and orrespondence to the 30th ultimo. The following extracts from the latest letters appear to embrace all the news:

New Onleans, June 30, 1963.

Matters at Port Hudson are pushed forward with a steading and energy which reflect great credit upon both offi

The grand point of the rebel stronghold, namely, what The grand point of the rebel stronghold, namely, what they called the "Citadel," has, through the sgency of seventeen large Parrott guns, placed by our troops so as to completely command it, fallen into our hands. The Major who commanded the construction of the work informed me that "when he left Port Hudson the flag of the Republic was flying over the Citadel". This Citadel is the extreme right of the rebel works, and from it our gunboats received most annoyance. It is now occupied by our troops.

The most vigorous efforts are being made all along our line, from right to left. An attack is momentarily expected. The final conflict is certain to come off on or before the 4th of July It will be made with our works stronger and nearer those of the rebels than at any time previously. With these advantages is another, the works

are more numerous.

A vigorous bombardment is kept up night and day, and this is now telling wonderfully in our favor. Already a long breach has been made in the outer works of the boulds the yest carnage created inside.

NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 30, 1863.

A murderous affair came off at Donaldsonville on Sunday morning last. The enemy attempted to carry our little fort at that point by storm, but failed in the attempt, and retreated with a loss of over one hundred killed outright and one hundred and twenty prisoners. The attack was made by a Texas regiment, and nearly every officer in it was either killed or taken prisoner. Our loss was only five killed and fourteen wounded. The United States steamer Princess Royal participated, and it was her fire that told with such fearful effect upon the enemy.

With the exception of the above every thing in the de-NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 30, 1863.

With the exception of the above every thing in the de-partment remains as in my last, and must do so until the fate of Port Hudson is decided. The United States steamer Tennessee, just down from Springfield Landing, reports that our approaches are within twenty yards of the enemy's citadel. The attack may come off at any

The wounded officers and men in the department are very well. Gen. Sherman will be able to leave for the North in a few days. Gen. Payne, although having lost his leg, is doing very well. Capt. Bordeau goes North by the first Government transport.

We hear nothing from along the line of the Opelousas railroad, except that the rebels at Brashear City are run-

ning across the Atchafeyla river all the articles they cap-tured at that point NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 26th, 1863.

The 'victory' of Sunday at Lafourche crossing was followed by the speedy retreat of the Federal forces to Bute station. Before leaving Lafourche they burnt the railroad bridge at the crossing, and several of the returned soldiers say that they spiked their battery and threw the solders say that they spiked their battery and threw the guns into the boyou. At Bute station they proceeded to entench themselves, and their subsequent operations are significantly summed up in the return of the ISth Maine regiment to this city yesterday, with word that 'the rest were coming,' and the return this morning of the 26th Massachusetts, sent over as a reinforcement last Saturday evening. The Confederates meanwhile tore up a mile more of the track west of the crossing, and between t two forces—Federals and Confederates—the Opelous road may be considered destroyed as a 'medium of con

The force at Brashear, expected an attack; but the oked for the advance from Latourche, and were fairly looked for the advance from Latourche, and were fairly surprised—literally, as well as in a military sense—when at daylight on Tuesday morning two batteries, planted the night previous, opened upon them from Berwick city, opposite: and not an hour after came crashing through the woods a mixed mass of horse and footmen. There were not more than six hundred of them, and they were a part of Mouton's force from the west bank of the Teche. They crossed on rafts and flat boats, landing on the south bank of Lake Palondre, charged into town, and came in the rear of the Federals, who were looking for an advance upon Bayou Bœuf. It was short work. There was no fighting. The provost marshal and a few men sear the fighting. The provost marshal and a few men near the bay succeeded in getting on board the Holyhock. The rest were 'gobbled.

As a raid, surprise, or 'gobble,' it was a most impor-nt achievement for the Confederates, and a disaster to e Federals. There are no means of knowing precisely the number of men who were taken prisoners. They were volunteers belonging to the Twenty-third Connecticut, the One Hundred and Seventy sixth New York, and the First Indiana battery, with several sick and convales cent men. Two thousand negroes—men, women, and children—were in the city, not one of whom escaped.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

The transport steamer Arago, from Port Royal on the 4th instant, has arrived at New York with mails, stores are several army officers.

Admiral Dahlgren arrived at Port Royal on the mor ing of the 4th.

We stated yesterday, on the authority of the "New South" of the 27th ultimo, that it had been decided to make no active military movements in that department during this summer. The reason assigned for this decision is that the troops are insufficient to enable Gen. Gilmore to assume the offensive. The troops not necessary to the defence of the lines now occupied by the Union forces are to be sent to other military departments.

On the 24th ultimo the rebels on Morris Island again pened on our pickets at Folly Island. One private was killed and another wounded. This makes three men killed and a large quantity of solid and grape shot expended on Folly Island by the rebels

Gen. Gilmore has issued an order defining what constitutes desertion, and another announcing that he will hold all officers responsible for the men in their commands who straggle beyond their lines.

The annexed paragraphs are copied from the "New South," the first one being from its number of the 27th ultimo, and the remaining two from its number of the 4th

A NEGRO SOLDIER SENTENCED TO BE HUNG Sergeant Robert Sutton, Co. G. First Regiment S. C. Volunteers, was charged with mutiny before a court martial, the specifications being that on or about the 23d day of May, 1863, on board the steamer Saxon, at Fernandina vailed that he had made a mistake. The Polish question presents no new aspects. The journals are engaged in discussing the probabilities of a war. Meantime the Poles have defeated the Russians near Widawaw, capturing six guns. There had been very little change in the markets since the sailing of the previous steamer. Consols 92 a 924.

The Judiciary of New Hampshire have given an opinion

The Judiciary of New Hampshire have given an opinion of May, 1863, on board the steamer Saxon, at Fernandina, Florida, he did cause a mutiny among the enlisted men of his detachment, under command of Capt. William J. Randolph, of said regiment, by agitating the propriety of going on to the mainland, and did declare in the presence and hearing of other enlisted men of said regiment that he expedition should go; and that on the evening of the 25th day of May, 1863, in St. Simon's Sound, Georgia, when there was a mutiny among the enlisted men of young on to the mainland, and did declare in the presence and hearing of other enlisted men of said regiment, by agitating the propriety of going on to the mainland, and did declare in the presence and hearing of other enlisted men of this detachment, under command of Capt. William J. Randolph, of said regiment, by agitating the propriety of going on to the mainland, and did declare in the presence and hearing of other enlisted men of the will be measures of his superior officers, to wit: the propriety of going on to the mainland, and did declare in the presence and hearing of other enlisted men of the will be measured of his detachment, under command of Capt. William J. Randolph, of said regiment, by agitating the propriety of the measures of his superior officers, to wit: the propriety of going on to the mainland, and did declare in the presence and hearing of other enlisted men of the detachment of the propriety of the measures of his superior officers, to wit: the propriety of going on to the mainland, and did declare in the presence and hearing of the propriety of the measures of his not use his utmost endeavors to suppress the sa when in the surf boat alongside said steamer and when ordered by his commanding officer, Capt. William J. Ran-dolph, to disarm a mutinous man, did neglect and refuse to do so. He was found guilty of the first specification. He specification, but not guilty of the first specification. He was sentenced to be hung by the neck until he is dead was sentenced to be hung by the neck until he is dead was sentenced to be hung by the General Commanding shall be a sentenced to be hung by the General Commanding shall be a sentenced to be supported by the commanding shall be a sentenced to be supported by the commanding shall be a sentenced to be supported by the commanding shall be supported by the co

RECA. TURE OF A NOTED NEGRO PRISONER

On Wednesday afternoon last Sergeant Michael Capars, of the Third South Carolina Regiment, who a few nights since escaped from the proves guard-house, after he had been convicted by court-martial and sentenced to be hung. for the murder of Prince Drayton, servant to Capt. F. C. Ford, post commissary, was arrested in some bushes nes Mitchellville. Capars has been hiding himself on the island since his escape, and when arrested had on a man-of-war-man's rig, which he had probably obtained by exchange with some deserter from the navy. He gave himself up without resistance. He was ironed and handed over to the provest officers, who had in the mean time arrived. He is closely guarded and cannot escape, but he is not very well resigned to his fate, which he is now convinced

SUMMARY EXECUTION OF A NEGRO DESERTER For some time past there have been frequent desertions from the colored regiments in this department, and the laxity of discipline in treating such cases has led to bad results, a mutinous spirit manifesting itself prominently in some instances. On Saturday some deserters were caught, among them several who had left before being mustered among them several who had left before being mustered in, and to whom the excuse of ignorance might apply. But in the number was one William Span, a prominent deserter, who had been warned in vain, and who had despised all threats. Col. Montgomery had this man brought before him on Sunday morning, and asked him if he had any defence to make. The deserter said he had none at all Col. M. Inquired if he had any reason to urge why he should not be shot for his offence. He replied that he had none, that he was in the Colonel's hands, and that he could do with him as he saw fit. "Then," said the Colonel, "you will he about a half the state of the colonel, "you will he about a half the same of allock this morning." none, that he was in the Coloner. Then," said the Coloner with him as he saw fit. "Then," said the Coloner will be abot at half-past nine o'clock this more And at that hour he was shot to death, in the present that hour he was shot to death, in the present that hour he was shot to death, in the present that hour he was shot to death, in the present that hour he was shot to death, in the present that hour he was shot to death, in the present that he was shot to death, in the present that he was shot to death, in the present that he was shot to death. his regiment. Col. Montgomery subsequently reported the matter to his superior officers, and we are not aware the his course has been disapproved.